

Ramsey County Workforce Investment Board
General Membership Meeting
Thursday, February 1st, 2007 2:30-4:30
Minutes

Members Present

Craig Anderson
Patricia Brady
Mike Chanaka
Carrie Coleman
Robert de la Vega
John Evans
Gerry Flannery
Trixie Golberg
Kirk Hayes
Lee Helgen
Nancy Hendrickson
Butch Howard
Vinod Kumar
William Lowe
David MacKenzie
Tom Macy
Rob McKenzie
Brian Miller
Robert Morse
Paul Nelson
Willie Nesbit
Jane Sanem
Dean Shawbold
Mark Sorenson
Libby Starling
Lori Stone
Cynthia Yongvang

Members Absent

Jesse Bethke Gomez EA
Jeanne Blake
Amy Brenengen EA
Kathy Engesser
Kristina Hamann
Courtney Henry EA
Bernie Hesse
Doug Hubbard EA
Tom Klas
Lorrie Louder
Jim McDonough EA
Jerry McElroy
Mary McKee
Jackie Mlynarczyk EA
Tom Simonson
Rick Vazquez

Staff/Guests Present

Mary Jo Gardner, WIB CEO
Kate Bates, WIB Staff
Carol Aharoni, HIRED
Julie Baker, HIRED
Lashauna Jones, Building Lives
Participant
Katie McWatt, NAACP, St Paul
Branch
Ora Lee Patterson, NAACP, St Paul
Branch
Anthony Pearson, Building Lives
Participant
Terrell Towers, DEED Business
Services
Jan West, HIRED
Tanya Yarborough, Workforce
Solutions
Terry Zurn, Workforce Solutions

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Bob de la Vega at 2:41p.m.

Approve Minutes and Agenda

Motion was made by Kirk Hayes and seconded by Willie Nesbit to approve the minutes and agenda as presented.

Motion carried.

Share Recognition and Announcements

Members were recognized for their recent achievements. New members introduced themselves and discussed their interest in workforce development. See attachment 1 for further recognition and announcements.

Approve Consent Agenda

Approve Change to NAWB Operating Rule

The Executive Committee has reviewed the operating rule regarding funds available for WIB members to attend the National Association of Workforce Boards conference. They modified the rule to allow members funding up to the cost of early bird registration (\$645 this year), as opposed to the \$500 cap that

was previously placed on the funds available. They have recommended this change and are forwarding it to the full board for approval.

Accept FSET Annual County Plan

The Food Support Employment and Training plan for 2007 is submitted for approval. This program provides food support for a maximum of three months to able bodied people aged 18-50 years old who are not on public assistance and searching for a job. The program year for this is October 1, 2007 to September 30, 2008, and the WIB will get a report at the end of the year. The plan has also gone to the County Board.

Councilmember Helgen requested that the WIA/MYP youth plan be removed from the consent agenda for further discussion.

Motion made by Kirk Hayes with second by Carrie Coleman to approve the consent agenda as modified, with the WIA/MYP plan taken out for further discussion.

Motion carried.

Approve WIA and MYP Youth Plan

The WIA/MYP Youth Plan required an update of the existing plan, which was submitted in 2006. Questions may be answered with either “change” or “no change.” An explanation is required when there has been a change- most of the changes to Ramsey County’s plan are a result of the new service delivery plan that was in the new youth RFP last year. An ad hoc of the Youth Council reviewed and updated the plan, and the Youth Council and Executive Committee have accepted the plan as presented.

There were questions on how the programs serve Saint Paul youth, diverse populations and youth needing help just in the summer. Terry Zurn and Patricia Brady of Workforce Solutions and Kirk Hayes, Chair of the Youth Council, addressed these concerns by citing the work with the “Communities of Color” project and the outreach to schools and organizations in the City of Saint Paul.

Motion made by Kirk Hayes with second by Bill Lowe to approve the WIA and MYP Youth Plan.

Motion carried.

Presentation on PY 05 Performance Data Used in Incentive Awards

Patricia Brady presented the PY05 performance data for Ramsey County, which earned incentive funds for the WSA. Ramsey County received the second highest amount for their exemplary performance in regards to WIA standards. Patricia thanked the board for their support as well as Workforce Solutions staff. The funds will be used for Workforce Solutions staff development.

Update on Joint Powers Agreement

Bob de la Vega gave background on the JPA issue for the new members. There are no updates.

Update on Saint Paul WorkForce Center

Everything is moving along with the new WorkForce Center and it will open on its target date of February 5th. There was discussion on the location of the center along University and the possibility of an open house in the spring.

Targeted Industries Current Workforce Conditions- Construction

At the last meeting, representatives from the healthcare and advanced manufacturing sectors discussed the current and projected situations in regards to workforce. This month Gerry Flannery, Flannery Construction, shared his thoughts with the workforce situation in the construction industry. Gerry

discussed the market fluctuations the construction industry experiences, usually following behind the curve of the economy. Since 2003 the need for construction has decreased and many in this field found themselves out of work. The market is slowly starting to pick up for construction, and it is expected to continue this way with new large projects on the horizon. Planned expansion and improvements in the Twin Cities will bring more work for the larger companies, leaving the smaller companies to do residential and light commercial work. Gerry predicts that 2008 will bring a shortage of qualified workers, much like the market a few years ago. There may be opportunities at that time for educated entry level positions to serve as apprentices starting out in the field. When asked what the WIB could do to help the coming shortage, Gerry stressed the importance of discussing the different opportunities in construction with kids early, when they first start thinking of what they would like to do.

Building Lives Presentation

Representatives from Workforce Solutions and HIRED, who ran the Building Lives program with a two million dollar federal demonstration grant from 2002-2005 presented information on the successful youth program. The program assisted at-risk and adjudicated youth with education and employment to keep them out of the justice system. The most effective part of this program was the intense one-on-one case management that went along with the program and provided each participant with a caring adult. The Youth Council is seeking legislative funding to continue this program.

Patricia Brady and Terry Zurn, Workforce Solutions, and Carol Aharoni, HIRED, gave background and Tanya Yarborough, Workforce Solutions, Jan West and Julie Baker, HIRED gave “front line” stories of working with youth in the program. They all stressed the importance of having a consistent, positive and caring adult for each of the participants, many of whom hadn’t had this in their lives until entering the program. The average recidivism rate is 36%, and the recidivism rate for kids in the program was 6%. Part of the success of the program came from its collaborative nature, connecting with Ramsey County, Juvenile Justice, parole officers, Boys Totem Town, YWCA, churches, schools and community programs. Lashauna Jones and Anthony Pearson were participants in the program and expressed the difference the program has made for them. When the program closed, many of the participants were transitioned into the WIA program so they were able to still receive services and have that caring adult.

In the near future there may be a request from the WIB staff and leadership to actively lobby for funds to run this program. Members of the Building Lives ad hoc are setting up meetings with legislators and other stakeholders to discuss the program and the importance of having it funded. Next Wednesday, February 7th, is the Minnesota Workforce Council Association’s Day at the Capitol- if you would like to meet with your legislators on this day, please contact WIB staff and meetings will be set up for you.

Presentation on WIB Committees

Craig Anderson, Tom Macy and Kirk Hayes gave overviews of the Workforce, CAO and Youth Council committees, respectively.

The Workforce Committee focuses on defining priorities from the labor market information and creating strategies for a skilled, sustainable workforce. They defined the WIB’s current priorities of working with the construction, healthcare and advanced manufacturing sectors, working with English language learners, and fostering collaboration amongst the organizations that serve businesses in Ramsey County.

The Communication, Advocacy, and Oversight Committee (CAO) focuses on the data behind the work the WIB and its partners do. They do the detailed oversight of the partner programs, recruit and maintain the membership of the WIB, and work on marketing and advocacy on the WIB’s behalf.

The Youth Council is a mandated subgroup charged with coordinating youth services. They advise the WIB on youth planning and coordinate the services in Ramsey County, as well as take on special projects related to youth in Ramsey County.

The importance of choosing and attending committees was stressed, as it is where the real work of the WIB happens. Members are encouraged to think of their skill sets and with which committee would be the best fit for them.

Other

Ora Lee Patterson and Katie McWatt were present from the St. Paul Branch of the NAACP. They attended the meeting to find out more about what the WIB does.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned upon completion of the agenda at 4:29 p.m.

Next Meeting

Thursday, April 5, 2007

2:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Ramsey County Parks and Recreation.

Attachment 1: Recognition and Announcements**Recognition:**

- Welcome new WIB members Carrie Coleman, UnitedHealthcare; Councilmember Lee Helgen, Saint Paul City Council; Butch Howard, HMSHost; Rob McKenzie, International United Auto Workers Union; Jane Sanem, Associated General Contractors of MN; Mark Sorenson, HealthEast Care System; Elizabeth Starling, MN Housing Finance Agency; Lora Stone, Project for Pride in Living; Rick Vasquez, Bremer Bank; and Cynthia Yongvang, Yongvang Consulting, LLC.
- Kaposia's first ever "Walk for Wheels" fundraiser raised over \$32,000 to help people with physical challenges access their community. Congratulations to Jackie Mlynarczyk and her team!
- Thank you to Youth Council members for their part in helping with the Youth Plan: Kirk Hayes, Peter Jessen-Howard, Dave MacKenzie, Rick Polanski, Dean Shawbold, and Jody Yungers
- Thank you to WorkForce Center Partners: Workforce Solutions, DEED Rehabilitation Services, DEED Job Service, Employment Action Center, HIRED, DEED and the State of Minnesota Real Estate Division for their input and preparation for the opening of the Saint Paul WorkForce Center.
- CLUES was featured on the front page of the Star Tribune Business section on Sunday, January 14, 2007. The link for the article is <http://www.startribune.com/535/story/933475.html>

Announcements:

- Partners are in process of moving into the Saint Paul WorkForce Center and will officially open for business on February 5.
- There is funding available for members to attend the National Association of Workforce Boards conference February 24-27, 2007 at the Renaissance Washington, DC Hotel. Please contact Kate for more information.

- If you are in need of qualified individuals for open positions within your organization, Job Connect is a network of 250+ job counselors in the NE metro and surrounding areas that utilize their caseload to fill these positions with quality candidates. John O'Phelan, Workforce Solutions, is the coordinator of this electronic network- if you would like more information please contact him at john.o'phelan@co.ramsey.mn.us
- The WorkForce Centers in Ramsey County invite employers to attend a special seminar on *Assisting Soldiers to Reintegrate into the Workplace*. The seminar will be given by an officer with the 88th Readiness Command Combat Operational Stress Control Team of the Army National Guard. It is expected that thousands of Minnesota guards men and women will be returning to Minnesota in the Summer and Fall 2007. You can learn how to assist their return to civilian life as an employer, friend or family member. Register now for the informative session to be held at the North St. Paul Workforce Center from 8-10 a.m. on Friday, March 2nd. Space is limited, so call 651-779-5660 now. Information may be requested by email to the WIB.
- The next WIB meeting, April 5, 2007, 2:30 – 4:30, will take place at Ramsey County Parks and Recreation in Maplewood.